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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Fifth Committee

Allocation of agenda items to the Fifth Committee

Letter dated 15 September 1998 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the decisions taken by the fifty-third session of the General Assembly at its 3rd plenary meeting, pertaining to the allocation of items to the Fifth Committee.

I wish to draw your attention to the recommendations on the organization of the session contained in section II of the report of the General Committee (A/53/250). Those recommendations were approved by the General Assembly, also at its 3rd plenary meeting.

May I also draw your attention to paragraph 45 of section IV and to the relevant part of paragraph 59 of section V of the report concerning the agenda of the Main Committees.

I earnestly request your cooperation in these matters.

(*Signed*) Didier **Opertti**

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Annex

Allocation of items to the Fifth Committee

1. Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors (item 111):
   (a) United Nations;
   (b) United Nations Development Programme;
   (c) United Nations Children's Fund;
   (d) United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East;
   (e) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;
   (f) Voluntary funds administered by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;
   (g) Fund of the United Nations Environment Programme;
   (h) United Nations Population Fund;
   (i) United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation;
   (j) Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme;
   (k) United Nations Office for Project Services.
2. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (item 112).
3. Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999 (item 113).
4. Programme planning (item 114).
5. Improving the financial situation of the United Nations (item 115).
6. Administrative and budgetary coordination of the United Nations with the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency (item 116).
7. Pattern of conferences (item 117).
8. Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations (item 118).
9. Human resources management (item 119).
10. United Nations common system (item 120).
11. United Nations pension system (item 121).
12. Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping forces in the Middle East (item 122):
   (a) United Nations Disengagement Observer Force;
   (b) United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.
13. Financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission and the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (item 123).
14. Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991) (item 124):

(a) United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission;

(b) Other activities.

15. Financing of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (item 125).

16. Financing and liquidation of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (item 126).

17. Financing of the United Nations Protection Force, the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia, the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force and the United Nations Peace Forces headquarters (item 127).

18. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (item 128).

19. Financing of the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (item 129).

20. Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (item 130).

21. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (item 131).

22. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Haiti (item 132).

23. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (item 133).

24. Financing of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (item 134).

25. Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (item 135).

26. Financing of the United Nations Mission of Observers in Tajikistan (item 136).

27. Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (item 137).

28. Financing of the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (item 138).

29. Financing of the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium and the Civilian Police Support Group (item 139).

30. Financing of the United Nations Preventive Deployment Force (item 140).

31. Financing of the United Nations Support Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Transition Mission in Haiti and the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (item 141).

32. Financing of the Military Observer Group of the United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala (item 142).

33. Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (item 143):

(a) Financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations;

(b) Relocation of Ukraine to the group of Member States set out in paragraph 3 (c) of General Assembly resolution 43/232.

34. Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (item 144).

35. Review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B (item 145).

36. Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic (item 161).

37. Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Sierra Leone (item 163).

38. Joint Inspection Unit (item 165).

[The General Assembly decided that the item would be allocated to the Fifth Committee, on the understanding that the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit dealing with subject matters assigned to other Main Committees would also be referred to those Committees.]

39. Report of the Economic and Social Council [chapters I, VIII (sections B and C) and X] (item 12).

[The General Assembly decided that the chapters of the report listed below would be referred also to plenary meetings and the Second and Third Committees, as follows:

(a) Chapters I, VIII (section C) and X ..... Plenary meetings, Second and Third Committees

(b) Chapter VIII (section B) ..... Plenary meetings and Second Committee]

40. Appointments to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other appointments (item 17):

(a) Appointment of members of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

(b) Appointment of members of the Committee on Contributions;

(c) Appointment of a member of the Board of Auditors;

(d) Confirmation of the appointment of members of the Investments Committee;

(e) Appointment of members of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal;

(f) International Civil Service Commission:

(i) Appointment of members of the Commission;

(ii) Designation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Commission.

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General Assembly

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Fifty-third session
Fifth Committee
Agenda item 113
Programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999

Revised estimates resulting from resolutions and decisions of the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted to inform the General Assembly of the requirements resulting from resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998.

2. The Council adopted a number of resolutions and decisions in which it authorized relevant functional commissions, standing committees or expert bodies to undertake additional activities, including meetings, in excess of those initially programmed in the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999. In accordance with rule 31 of its rules of procedure, the Council was provided, where appropriate, with a statement of programme budget implications prior to the adoption of these resolutions and decisions.

3. With regard to the substantive requirements, which were identified in the amount of $110,500 under section 22 (Human rights) of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, the Commission on Human Rights and the Council were informed that those requirements would be met from within the initial appropriation approved by the General Assembly for the biennium 1998–1999.

4. With regard to additional conference-servicing requirements, the Council was informed in each case that provision was already made under section 27E (Conference services) of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999, not only for meetings programmed at the time of budget preparation but also for meetings authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings were consistent with the pattern of meetings of past years.

5. By its resolution 1998/46 on further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council:

(a) Adopted the texts contained in the annexes to the resolution;

(b) Decided to hold, at its resumed substantive session of 1998, elections for the composition of the bodies, as laid down in annex I to the resolution, so that those bodies would be fully constituted from 1 January 1999, and requested the Bureau to work out appropriate mechanisms for the holding of the elections for that purpose;

(c) Decided to bring the resolution to the attention of the General Assembly in pursuance of paragraph 70 of annex I to Assembly resolution 50/227 and paragraphs 9 and 10 of Assembly resolution 52/12 B.

6. Annex I to resolution 1998/46 provides, *inter alia*, for the following:

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(a) The Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall remain a functional commission of the Economic and Social Council and shall continue to meet biennially for two weeks; the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development shall continue to serve as the secretariat of the Commission; the membership of the Commission is to be reduced from 53 to 33, with the following geographical distribution: eight members from African States; seven members from Asian States; six members from Latin American and Caribbean States; four members from Eastern European States; and eight members from Western European and other States. The term of office is to be four years;

(b) The Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources shall be merged into a single expert body to be named the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development which shall serve as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development should comprise, with due attention to geographical representation and gender balance, two subgroups of 12 experts nominated by Governments and approved by the Economic and Social Council. One subgroup should deal with issues relating to energy, the other with issues relating to water resources. The geographical distribution is to be as follows: six members from African States; five members from Asian States; four members from Latin American and Caribbean States; three members from Eastern European States; and six members from Western European and other States. The term of office is to be four years. The Committee shall meet biennially for two weeks on the understanding that the days available would be divided evenly in a flexible manner between the two subgroups. Upon the recommendation of both or either of the expert groups of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development, the Economic and Social Council may decide modalities for the establishment of ad hoc expert groups, when necessary, to consider issues relating to minerals.

7. The decisions of the Council contained in resolution 1998/46 relate to sections 11A (Trade and development) and 7A (Economic and social affairs) of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999. As indicated above, the implications of these decisions were submitted to the Council in document E/1998/L.35 and are as follows:

(a) The members of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development will be entitled to travel but not to a daily subsistence allowance, as is the case for other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. In addition, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/75 of 30 July 1993, it is assumed that the Commission will continue to receive specialized and technical advice from the ad hoc panels that will meet also once in the biennium to review/examine specific issues of science and technology for development and advise the Commission thereon. The Commission was scheduled to meet in 1999. A provision of $352,500 was appropriated in the current biennium under section 11A of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999. The related costs for the 1999 session of the restructured Commission are estimated to amount to approximately $292,500. The restructuring of the Commission would thus result in a reduction of the requirements under section 11A in the amount of $60,000;

(b) Provisions of $142,300 for the Committee on Natural Resources and of $115,000 for the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development were made under section 7A of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999. It is understood that, as for the two restructured Committees, the members of the new Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development will be entitled to travel and a daily subsistence allowance. On that basis, it is estimated that the related 1999 requirements of the new Committee on Energy and Natural Resources for Development would amount to $164,400. The merger of two Committees into one would thus result in a reduction of the requirements under section 7A in the amount of $92,900.

8. The Council has also been informed that the revised conference-servicing requirements for its machinery restructured by resolution 1998/46 would be met from within the existing appropriation under section 27E (Conference services) of the programme budget for the biennium 1998–1999.

9. In summary, the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council during its substantive session of 1998 would result in a reduction of the requirements against the 1998–1999 appropriation in the amount of $152,900. Such reduced requirements will be reflected in the first performance report for the biennium 1998–1999.